INFORMATION LETTER

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N.C.A. Mobile Field Lab Begins Summer Program

With the beginning of the pea canning season, the N.C.A. Mobile Field Laboratory is launching a series of bacteriological investigations of pea canning operations in the Midwest. The first location of the unit will be at the Belvidere, Ill., plant of the Green Giant Co., which will serve as headquarters during the pea season. Later the Field Laboratory will move to the Janesville, Wis., plant of Libby, McNeill & Libby for similar work during the corn packing season.

Emphasis will be placed this year on studies of special problems of spoilage prevention growing out of newer methods of product handling rather than on the wholesale surveys that have been conducted in previous years. However, members who have special problems or wish to consult the field staff on any subject are urged to get in touch with the Field Laboratory, which will be under the charge of C. W. Bohrer, through the office of the factory where it is located. The Laboratory was set up at Belvidere this week, and the date of its opening for the corn season will be announced later.

N.C.A. Executive Committee

Correction

In listing the membership of the N.C.A. Executive Committee in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, the name of Carleton A. Friday was inadvertently omitted. Full roster of the Executive Committee follows:

Ivan Moorhouse, Olympia Canning Co., Olympia, Wash., *Chairman;* Carleton A. Friday, Friday Canning Corp., New Richmond, Wis.; Robert A. Friend, Friend Brothers, Inc., Melrose, Mass.; George Gooding, California Packing Corp., San Francisco; James M. Shriver, The B. F. Shriver Co., Westminster, Md.; and A. O. Verbeke, Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago.

Defense Production Act

The Senate this week completed action on its bill to amend and extend the Defense Production Act. The House Committee on Banking and Currency, meanwhile, voted to report its recommendations to the House, which next week will have both measures before it. The bill is expected to come before the House June 18.

The Senate on June 12 passed and sent to the House a bill extending the authorization for price controls without any change in present law of concern to canners. Final action on the measure had been delayed by consideration of proposals dealing with the steel situation. The Senate vote on passage of its bill was 58-to-18.

The House Banking Committee, meeting in closed session, voted to extend the Defense Production Act for one year, ending June 30, 1953. The Senate-passed bill would extend price and wage controls through February 28, 1953, and allocations and priorities through next June 30.

Suspension of Record-keeping

By a 17-to-5 vote, the House Committee adopted an amendment dealing with filing of reports on ceiling prices. The amendment provides that no person shall be required to furnish any reports or other information with respect to sales at prices which are 7 percent or more below applicable ceiling prices. However, in such instances the person making sales at 7 percent or more below ceiling prices must certify that fact to the President. This amendment, the Committee explained, would be applicable to an individual item; and price ceilings would be retained in full force; but sellers would be relieved of reporting requirements as long as they maintained their sales at 7 percent or more below ceilings.

The House Committee exempted from wage control employers of eight or less employees, with the proviso, however, that the President could retain wage controls under certain circumstances. In addition, the Committee voted to eliminate agricultural labor from the wage and salary controls.

The elimination of price control authority over fresh fruits and vege-

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N.C.A. Representatives Deliver Papers at I.F.T. Meeting

Representatives of N.C.A. delivered technical papers at the 12th annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists, held in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 8-12.

H. Thomas Austern of N.C.A. Counsel took part in a session on chemicals and additives in foods. His paper was entitled "The Legal Framework for Proposed Legislation Controlling Possibly Toxic Food Ingredients."

E. S. Doyle of the N.C.A. Western Branch Laboratory spoke on "Self-Inspection—A Necessity" at a session on food plant sanitation.

Mr. Austern dealt with legislative proposals concerning new food ingredients whose nontoxicity is not established to the satisfaction of the Food and Drug Administration. He said that current agitation for and opposition to proposed legislation to prohibit the use of these ingredients offers a challenging opportunity for food technologists to participate in public and political consideration of these issues within their special competence.

He stated that any legislative proposal must be evaluated against what may be demonstrated to be the need for additional control, against the existing federal statutory structure and its current efficacy in safeguarding the public health, against an exploration of the possible effect of new administrative controls in impeding technological improvement in food production, and as a determined choice among several available regulatory technics.

In his paper, Mr. Austern developed these factors and examined various proposals to date, in the hope of facilitating discussion among I.F.T. mem-

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STATISTICS

Spring-Crop Spinach

The 1952 indicated production of spring-crop spinach for processing in the four producing states—Virginia, Maryland, Arkansas, and Oklahoma—totals 17,050 tons, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is 26 percent less than the 23,000 tons of spring spinach estimated for 1951 and 3 percent below the average of 17,520 tons for the 1941-50 period.

Spring-crop acreage for 1952 harvest for processing in the four states is estimated at 10,600 acres, compared with 13,030 acres harvested in the spring of 1951 and an average of 10,180 acres for the 10-year period.

	1951	1952 Indicated	Percent change, 1952 Indicated and 1951
	(tons)	(tons)	
Winter [1]	74,600	66,200	− 11
Spring:			
Virginia	2,400	1,800	− 25
Maryland	1,700	750	− 56
Arkansas	6,800	5,000	− 26
Oklahoma	12,100	9,500	− 21
Spring, total	23,000	17,050	− 26
Winter and Spring	97,600	83,250	− 15
Fall	13,870	.....	
All states	11,1470	.....	

[1] Data covers Texas and California; reported in Information Letter of March 15, page 130.

The report on production of fall spinach is due November 12.

Production Forecasts on Fruits

Prospects for production of deciduous fruits are slightly below a year ago, according to the general crop report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics June 10.

Apples—Prospects in the commercial areas point to about an average crop, but slightly below 1951. The western crop will again be short because of the damage caused by the late freezes in Washington, although the outlook for the area is moderately above the short crop of 1951. The eastern crop is expected to be above average but below the large crops of 1950 and 1951.

Peaches—Prospects on June 1 were for a 1952 peach crop of 69,365,000 bushels, 9 percent above the 1951 crop. Prospects were generally fair to good in all areas except Texas. Following are production indications in the major peach canning states:

Peaches	1941-50 ave.	1951	1952 Indicated	Change from 1951
	(in thousands of bushels)			(percent)
N. Y.	1,247	1,312	1,280	− 2
Mich.	3,861	605	3,868	+539
Utah	646	800	648	− 19
Wash.	2,086	810	1,708	+109
Ore.	376	400	571	+ 43
Calif., all	30,698	35,878	33,294	− 7
Cling	19,506	24,544	22,210	− 10
Free	11,193	11,334	11,084	− 2

Pears—The pear crop is forecast at 30,160,000 bushels, substantially the same as the revised 1951 production of 30,028,000 bushels.

Pears	1941-50 ave.	1951	1952 Indicated	Change from 1951
	(in thousands of bushels)			(percent)
N. Y.	679	486	454	− 7
Mich.	721	966	1,073	+ 11
Wash., all	7,046	5,554	5,238	− 6
Bartlett	5,231	3,970	3,654	− 8
Ore., all	4,929	4,997	5,520	+ 10
Bartlett	1,971	2,147	2,166	+ 1
Calif., all	12,468	15,001	14,584	− 3
Bartlett	11,009	13,001	13,001	.....

Apricots—Production of apricots is forecast at 175,000 tons, 4 percent below the 1951 crop.

Apricots	1941-50 ave.	1951	1952 Indicated	Change from 1951
	(tons—fresh basis)			(percent)
Calif.	203,700	172,000	155,000	− 10
Wash.	20,020	4,800	14,500	+202
Utah	5,020	6,400	6,000	− 6

Sour Cherries—The sour cherry crop is forecast at 152,030 tons, 4 percent less than the record crop of 158,240 tons in 1951. Total prospective tonnage in the Great Lakes states is about 3 percent below last year, with improved prospects in Wisconsin and Michigan only partially offsetting lower production prospects in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The bloom was heavy but poor pollination weather prevailed in the late blooming areas.

R&P Cherries	1941-50 ave.	1951	1952 Indicated	Change from 1951
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
N. Y.	16,960	30,200	24,100	− 20
Ohio	2,238	2,600	2,370	− 9
Mich.	48,650	84,700	87,400	+ 3
Wis.	12,750	14,500	16,400	+ 13
Colo.	3,204	3,200	2,200	+ 31
Utah	2,150	3,200	2,800	− 13
Wash.	3,950	3,500	2,800	− 20
Ore.	2,190	3,700	3,000	− 19

Sweet Cherries—Production of sweet cherries is forecast at 106,030 tons, compared with the revised production of 71,790 tons for 1951. All states except New York have prospects for crops equal to or larger than last year. The indicated production in California of 36,100 tons (15,400 tons Royal Anne and 20,700 tons other varieties) is nearly double the short 1951 crop.

Sweet Cherries	1941-50 ave.	1951	1952 Indicated	Change from 1951
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(percent)
Mich.	4,360	6,800	9,100	+ 34
Utah	3,254	4,000	4,400	+ 10
Wash.	26,200	12,700	17,800	+ 40
Ore.	20,980	16,700	24,800	+ 49
Calif.	29,650	19,800	36,100	+ 82

Citrus—The 1951-52 orange crop is estimated at 117.9 million boxes, slightly above the 1950-51 crop of 116.9 million boxes and 19 percent more than average. The total grapefruit crop is estimated at 40.4 million boxes, 13 percent less than last season and 21 percent below average. Processing of Florida grapefruit, however, is reported about a fourth less than last year to June 1.

Crop Progress Vegetables for Processing

Prospects for the big four processing crops—green peas, sweet corn, snap beans, and tomatoes—were generally favorable on June 1, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics June 10.

The favorable weather that prevailed through the latter part of May over the northern portion of the country enabled growers of processing crops to push toward the completion of planting operations, start cultivating some of the early row crops, and proceed with the harvesting of a few other crops such as asparagus and green peas. In the southern part of the country comments received by BAE indicate that the weather was normally warm but not seriously dry except on the lower West Coast and portions of the Gulf States.

The showery periods that occurred in the latter part of May from the Middle Atlantic States westward to Illinois made it necessary for some tomato growers to leave their fields for a few days until the fields dried, but work was soon resumed and most of the transplanting was finished by June 1. Sweet corn and snap bean planting was making normal headway.

Following are summaries of crop conditions as reported by BAE:

Peas for Processing

Northeast: Harvesting of peas for processing in full swing in the Del-Mar-Va area. In New York, May

weather was generally favorable for the crop. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania some rot was reported in low spots, but harvest expected to begin about mid-June.

Midwest: Condition of crop generally favorable. Harvesting expected to get under way in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan in early June, in Illinois by mid-June, in Wisconsin a week or 10 days later, and in Minnesota about June 20.

Colorado and Utah: June 1 prospects fairly promising except where local hailstorms injured the crop.

Idaho, Oregon and Washington: Green peas developed rapidly and harvesting started earlier than expected. Crop conditions generally good. In Oregon especially, the crop condition on June 1 was considerably better than on the same date a year ago.

California: Harvesting was practically finished early in June. Production from 10,100 acres was indicated at 13,030 tons, shelled basis, compared with 13,600 tons in 1951.

Sweet Corn for Processing

East: Rainy weather generally interfered with corn planting throughout the East. Planting will continue through early June in the Del-Mar-Va area, and considerable acreage in Pennsylvania may be planted in early June.

Midwest: Frequent rains in May slowed planting. Additional acreage is expected to be planted in early June in all Midwest states. Considerable acreage remained to be planted after June 1 in Illinois and Wisconsin. Final acreage is expected to be planted by June 10 in Iowa and Minnesota.

Idaho, Oregon and Washington: Planting is generally finished and conditions are quite favorable for rapid germination.

Snap Beans for Processing

East: In South Carolina, movement of snap beans to fresh market was about over on June 1 and purchases on the open market for processing are expected to increase. In the Del-Mar-Va area additional acreage is scheduled for planting during June. Early planted seed has germinated well and weather is favorable for rapid growth. Planting in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania was continuing on June 1.

Michigan and Wisconsin: Limited plantings were made late in May but most of the acreage is expected to be planted in June.

Arkansas: Seed has germinated in the early fields.

Oregon and Washington: Favorable conditions are reported from the Northwest for planting and germination.

Consumer Purchases of Juices

Householders bought a near record of 8,485,000 cases of canned single-strength juices in March, according to a report on consumer purchases of fruits and juices issued by BAE and PMA.

For the series of reports which was begun in October, 1949, the month of February, 1952, is the record high for consumer purchases of canned single-strength juices.

Consumer purchases of canned single-strength juices during February, 1952, were the highest of record since the start of the series of reports in October, 1949. Purchases during March, 1952, were only about 1 percent less than the February record.

Almost 57 percent of all families purchased one or more of the canned juices during March, the largest proportion buying in any month covered by this series of reports.

Orange juice—March purchases were 13 percent below those of the preceding month, but represented the third month since October, 1949, in which household purchases exceeded 2 million cases. Almost 18 percent of all families bought canned orange juice one or more times during the month. For the season to date (October, 1951-March, 1952), household purchases of canned orange juice exceeded those of a year earlier by about 28 percent.

Grapefruit juice—The purchases of 1,062,000 cases (equivalent No. 2 cans) of canned single-strength grapefruit juice in March were slightly more than in the preceding month and about 1 percent more than in March, 1951.

Blended juice—Householders purchased about 15 percent less blended juice in March than in February and about 12 percent than in March, 1951. Purchases of canned orange-grapefruit blended juice during October, 1951-March, 1952, exceeded those of a year earlier by about 4 percent.

Lemon juice—The volume of March purchases of lemon juice represented an increase of 17 percent compared with the preceding month. Nearly 3 percent of all families purchased canned lemon juice.

Tomato juice—Household purchases of canned tomato juice in March were the largest in any month covered by this series and exceeded purchases in February, the previous record, by 6 percent. March purchases also exceeded those of a year ago by 22 percent. Canned tomato juice was purchased by 21 percent of all families in March compared with 19 percent during March a year ago. A greater percentage of families purchased tomato juice than any other type of juice. Purchases during the period October, 1951-March, 1952, were about 12 percent more than in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Pineapple juice—Consumer purchases of canned pineapple juice in March were approximately the same as in each of the two preceding months and 260,000 cases lower than the record level of November, 1951. For the period October, 1951-March, 1952, household purchases of canned pineapple juice exceeded those of a year earlier by about two-thirds.

Prune juice—Householders purchased the equivalent of 435,000 cases of No. 2 cans of prune juice in March, slightly more than in the preceding month and 13 percent more than in March, 1951.

Apple juice—Householders purchased 284,000 cases (equivalent No. 2 cans) of apple juice during March. Purchases were made by 3.5 percent of all families during that month. The size of the average purchase of apple juice was 50.7 ounces.

Grape juice—During March householders purchased 209,000 cases (equivalent No. 2 cans) of grape juice, with 5.1 percent of all families making one or more purchases during the month. The size of the average purchase was 30.2 ounces.

The reports are entitled *Consumer Fruit and Juice Purchases, January-*

Canned Juices: U. S. Total Consumer Purchases, During Four-week Periods, March, 1951, and March, 1952

Canned Juices	March, 1951	March, 1952	Change
	(1,000 cases 24/2)		*(percent)*
Total [1]	6,844	8,485	+24
Orange	1,456	2,016	+38
Grapefruit	1,049	1,062	+ 1
O-G blend	537	474	−12
Lemon	36	49	+36
Tomato	1,529	1,859	+22
Pineapple	829	1,415	+71
Prune	386	435	+13

[1] Total includes tangerine, apple, grape, vegetable combination, and all other canned single-strength juices.

Canned Single-strength Juices: U. S. Total Consumer Purchases and Average Prices, March, 1952

Juice	Percentage of all families buying	Total quantity purchased by all families	Average price per equiv. No. 2 can
	(percent)	*(1,000 cases)*	*(cents)*
Orange	17.9	2,016	10.0
Grapefruit	10.7	1,062	9.1
O-G blend	5.5	474	9.6
Tangerine	1.9	134	9.9
Lemon	2.8	49	34.1
Apple	3.5	284	11.7
Grape	5.1	209	24.8
Pineapple	17.0	1,415	11.7
Prune	6.9	435	18.5
Tomato	21.0	1,859	11.6
Veg. combination	3.8	198	16.8
Other	n.a.	350	16.5
Total	56.6	8,485	11.9

n.a.—not available.

March, 1952, and *Consumer Purchases of Selected Fresh Fruits, Canned and Frozen Juices, and Dried Fruits in March, 1952*. Copies of both are available on request to either BAE or the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA.

DEFENSE

Wages for Harvesting Fruits

Area Ceiling Determination 4 establishes special wage rates that may be paid for cultivating, growing, harvesting, packing, handling and shipping peaches, pears, apples and all fruits during the 1952 crop year in Mesa and Delta Counties in Colorado.

ACD 4 was issued by the 11th Regional Board of the Wage Stabilization Board, with offices in Denver, and was published in the *Federal Register* of June 12.

PUBLICITY

Look Magazine

Quick-cooking canned meat dishes to keep the kitchen cool was the theme of the food article "Cool Cooking" in the June 3 issue of *Look* magazine. The writer states:

"Even skillful summer cooks who juggle two cans to make an inviting cold soup, and prepare summer desserts in the refrigerator, are often baffled by hot weather's toughest cooking problem: how to provide satisfying, inviting main dishes without overheating the kitchen, roasting the cook or breaking the budget. The solution for a record number of families this summer may be seen in the upward curve of canned meat sales for home use. Canned meats gained new importance with their widespread use during the last war. People discovered that they were economical and tempting—especially when the precooked meat is given a homemade finish.

"One of every ten summer meat dishes is likely to start in a can this year—an almost 500 percent increase in American canned meats in the last 15 years. Biggest boosters are young housewives impressed by their waste-free food values, economy and flavor."

A page of color photographs showing some of the cool dishes prepared with canned meats accompanied the article.

Defense Production Act

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tables was approved by the Committee.

The House Banking Committee also voted to require the Secretary of Agriculture to support prices of the six basic agricultural commodities at 90 percent of parity, except when producers have disapproved marketing quotas, for as long as price controls are in effect. Similar legislation has been approved by the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

Senate Amendments

During consideration of the price control provisions of the Defense Production Act on June 4, the Senate adopted the amendment offered by Senator Holland (Fla.) prohibiting price controls on fresh fruits and vegetables.

On June 11 the Senate adopted an amendment offered by Senator Williams (Del.) which would require that whenever price ceilings are declared in effect on any agricultural commodity at the farm level, "margin controls" on processors, wholesalers, and retailers must be established at the same time, limiting these sellers to no more than their "normal margins of profit."

The Williams amendment was aimed at stopping government purchases of poultry at high prices which are maintained by poultry dealers but not by the growers.

During a week of consideration of proposals dealing with the steel situation, the Senate rejected all seizure amendments except that of Senator Byrd (Va.), which "requests" the President to invoke the so-called Taft-Hartley Act.

Papers at I.F.T. Meeting

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bers who may desire to play an alert and informed role in the Congressional consideration of this question.

Mr. Doyle's paper pointed out that self-inspection by each food plant is essential to good operations, and that satisfactory maintenance of all operating details relating to good sanitation is being accomplished in many food plants by a well-organized self-inspection program. He stated, however, that when industry fails to make effective progress by itself, strict government enforcement becomes necessary.

In addition to compliance with regulations and of more eventual benefit, a well-organized and effective self-inspection program will make possible the practical application of the sanitary sciences in their broad scope to the entire operation and both production efficiency and quality will benefit accordingly, Mr. Doyle said. He called attention to the book, *Sanitation for the Food Preservation Industries*, which describes the relationship and benefits of a preventive sanitation or self-inspection program.

From consideration of the consumer's interest, common decency, personal pride and plant economics, good sanitation is one of industry's best investments. Self-inspection or self-policing is the sensible approach, Mr. Doyle concluded.

N.C.A. Meetings

During the period of the I.F.T. meeting, there were meetings of the N. C. A. Processing Committee on Foods in Glass Containers and of the Nutrition Subcommittee.

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